

CITY OF ROELAND PARK, KANSAS
CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
Roeland Park City Hall
4600 W 51st Street, Roeland Park, KS 66205
Monday, May 1, 2023, 6:00 P.M.

o Michael Poppa, Mayor	o Tom Madigan, Council Member	o Keith Moody, City Administrator	
o Trisha Brauer, Council Member	o Castagna-Herrera, Council Member	o Micah Rehmert, Asst. City Administrator	
o Benjamin Dickens, Council Member	o Michael Rebne, Council Member	o Kelley Nielsen, City Clerk	
o Jan Faidley, Council Member	o Kate Raglow, Council Member	o John Morris, Police Chief	
o Jennifer Hill, Council Member		o Donnie Scharff, Public Works Director	
Admin Dickens Rebne	Finance Hill Castagna-Herrera	Safety Madigan Brauer	Public Works Faidley Raglow

(Roeland Park Council Meeting Called to Order at 6:08 p.m.)

Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Poppa called the City Council meeting to order and led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call

City Clerk Nielsen called the roll. All Governing Body members were present. Staff members present were City Administrator Moody, City Attorney Mauer, Finance Director/Asst. City Administrator Rehmert, Public Works Director Scharff, Police Sgt. Honas, and City Clerk Nielsen.

Modification of Agenda

CMBR Faidley requested to remove the hiring of a historical consultant from the agenda because the item has not gone through Workshop, and they have not met with Ms. Jacobson.

Mayor Poppa said that many items appear on New Business that have not been through Workshop, and it can be discussed at that time whether or not to take a vote. He noted that they have been working on this item for a year and is a unanimous recommendation by the Ad Hoc Historical Committee.

CMBR Raglow said she would like to keep this on the agenda for discussion.

CMBR Castagna-Herrera said this is an important position for the Historical Committee. She also said it would be good for Ms. Jacobson to present her ideas to the group as there has been some tension surrounding the items the committee is working on.

CMBR Madigan stated that, as a committee, they stumbled and have recognized that they need to reach out to the Indigenous Native Americans. He said that they all wanted a historian and they had found one and would like to vote on it now so she can get to work. He said this is very close to him as this was a goal of his and also of CMBR Fast.

CMBR Faidley stated she has no issue discussing the position. She does have questions for the contractor regarding her approach and would like a clear idea as to how she will handle things. Ms. Jacobson is the only one who is able to answer those questions. She added that following her presentation at the Historical Committee meeting no public comments were permitted.

CMBR Raglow said Ms. Jacobson had put together a comprehensive presentation and CMBR Castagna-Herrera, CMBR Faidley, and CMBR Madigan heard that presentation. Also, Ms. Jacobson is not the only person the committee spoke with during this long process, but is their recommendation.

CMBR Rebne said he would support moving this to Workshop for discussion. He said they are taking a risk of alienating the community when they do not allow public comment. He, too, would like to hear Ms. Jacobson's view and it would also give them an opportunity to provide more input in the direction she could take.

MOTION: CMBR REBNE MOVED AND CMBR CASTAGNA-HERRERA SECONDED TO REMOVE NEW BUSINESS ITEM A. ENGAGE HISTORIAN FOR HISTORY PROJECTS FROM THE AGENDA. (MOTION FAILED 4-5 WITH CMBRS HILL, MADIGAN, BRAUER, AND RAGLOW VOTING NO AND MAYOR POPPA ALSO VOTING NO TO BREAK THE TIE.)

Public Hearing for CDBG Project Application - El Monte to Delmar Sidewalk Extension

Public Works Director Scharff said this item is for the proposed 2024 sidewalk extension between El Monte and Delmar that will provide a direct connection to Roesland Elementary. They are requesting the \$200,000 maximum from CDBG funds for the project.

There were no public comments.

Mayor Poppa closed the public hearing.

There was majority consensus to move forward with the project application.

I. PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comments were made.

II. Consent Agenda

- A. Appropriations Ordinance #1019
- B. Council Meeting Minutes April 17, 2023

MOTION: CMBR DICKENS MOVED AND CMBR RAGLOW SECONDED TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS AS PRESENTED. (MOTION CARRIED 8-0.)

III. Business from the Floor

A. Presentations from Habitat for Humanity

Mayor Poppa and City Clerk Nielsen spoke with Lindsay Hicks from Habitat for Humanity, who is continuing to compile the scope of work but did not have an update yet. Mayor Poppa said this is a pilot project providing \$100,000 of ARPA funds to Roeland Park. Homeowners can apply for critical

home repair needs or down payment assistance. Since March 10th when the program opened, there have been 52 applications, 50 for critical home repair and two for down payment assistance. He said there has been a lot of interest in the program and the applications are being vetted.

CMBR Rebne asked if they would have a chance to look at the applications. Mayor Poppa said the Governing Body does not approve the applications. City Attorney Mauer said they are not public documents and would not be reviewed by the Governing Body.

IV. Mayor's Report

A. Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month Proclamation

Mayor Poppa read the Roeland Park Stands Against Anti-Asian Discrimination Proclamation into the record.

B. Municipal Clerks Week Proclamation - April 30-May 6

Mayor Poppa read the proclamation into the record designating April 30 through May 6 as Municipal Clerks Week in Roeland Park. He said they consider Kelley Nielsen, the best City Clerk around. She is the professional link between the Governing Body, residents, and staff and is not sure how they would function without her. He thanked her for all that she does and expressed his appreciation for her dedication to the City.

C. Bike Month Proclamation

Mayor Poppa recognized May 2023 as Bike Month in the City of Roeland Park.

D. Educator Appreciation Week Proclamation - May 8-12

Mayor Poppa read the Educator Appreciation Week Proclamation for May 8 through 12, 2023, into the record. He also thanked CMBRS Hill, Rebne, and Faidley as educators for their dedication.

E. Small Business Month Proclamation

Mayor Poppa also read the proclamation declaring May 2023 Small Business Month in Roeland Park. He also noted that today was the launch of Project RISE, which is designed to support and be a resource for small businesses in their community.

V. Reports of City Liaisons and Committees

A. MARC - First Tier Suburbs (Jan Faidley)

CMBR Faidley's report is attached to the agenda packet. She said that Frank Lenk from MARC gave an enlightening presentation on the gap in affordable housing in the area. He will also make a presentation to the Governing Body at their first meeting in June.

Also, the KCHousingLocator is open for property owners to enroll properties for rent. They will launch that tool with various search parameters in the KC metro area.

B. Racial Equity Committee

Haile Sims, Chair of the Racial Equity Committee reviewed some of the upcoming activities and ways to get involved. He encouraged everyone in the community to get out and enjoy the many diverse activities the community has to offer. He would like them to be able to meet up and travel together to different events such as Cinco de Mayo and Juneteenth. He said they also have events planned for August, September, and October and wants the community to join them.

The committee also wants to increase their visibility and attract more members so they will advertise more of what they are doing and also put information in the *Roeland Parker*.

And finally, the committee has decided to begin having in-person meetings and said he is excited to meet everyone in person. They will continue to meet in a hybrid fashion if necessary.

C. Sustainability Committee

Megan Reavis, Chair of the Sustainability Committee, thanked everyone who participated in the Roe Boulevard clean-up on Earth Day. She said there were about 20 people who came out and in two hours they collected 27 bags of trash. She said it was a good turnout and they hope to do another one.

The committee had a presentation from Dan Cool of the KC Compost Collective and now they are looking for the best ways to provide that resource to the residents.

They also want to make sure that the people are educated about sustainability and will be submitting an article for the City newsletter each quarter.

CMBR Faidley noted an article in the *Shawnee Mission Post* regarding plastic recycling and asked if there would be any interest in a town hall for a discussion on plastic and changes with the carriers. City Administrator Moody said he has not heard about any changes of what is collected by their hauler GFL.

CMBR Rebne wanted to point out that the bike maintenance station at Granada Park is broken and wanted to know who was responsible for repairing that. Ms. Reavis said that came up in their last meeting and she would double check, but believed it was being repaired.

VI. Unfinished Business

There was no Unfinished Business discussed.

VII. New Business

A. Engage Historian for History Projects

The Historical Committee has recommended that Anna Jacobson serve as the contractor for historical services on two Governing Body objectives: the Historical Sign Project and the "Roeling Through the Years History Book." CMBR Hill noted a zero was missing in the final impact portion of the report.

CMBR Rebne said Ms. Jacobson's résumé reflected impressive work with different communities and he found that encouraging. He does have a concern about whether it is important to engage a historian to meet with the community who has not been a part of the history they want to reflect and showing

how they have gotten to where they are. He also felt that interviews with solitary individuals will not give them a wide enough perspective.

CMBR Raglow said they want to approach all groups and have all the conversations. Ms. Jacobson will utilize her own resources, as well as look for new resources to ensure they have a comprehensive dialogue. They do not want to intentionally or inadvertently leave out any individuals.

CMBR Castagna-Herrera said the committee is looking at writing their history through a racial equity lens and has an issue when a person who is not of color claims to be able to write or speak for other people of color. She also added that Ms. Jacobson does have experience dealing with various groups and seems like a thorough person. She said that Ms. Jacobson will need interaction with the Governing Body and the committee and not just turn her out on her own. She added that it is also important to include the Racial Equity Committee in this process.

CMBR Raglow said this would be Ms. Jacobson's project, but her professor does have oversight, and they are open to support, and she will not be on her own. She added that Ms. Jacobson does have the experience they are looking for, especially in relationship building.

CMBR Hill appreciates the work the committee has done to select someone and is excited to have someone so qualified.

Mayor Poppa said by Ms. Jacobson entering into this contract, she will be working for them.

CMBR Dickens said he is very impressed with her résumé and has no issues. He said he did not know what the rate is to hire a historian but \$36,000 seemed like a lot. City Administrator Moody said an hourly rate of \$50 is reasonable for the amount of time she has projected for the deposit as well as the scope of services is a substantial undertaking.

CMBR Brauer asked what could make that figure change. City Administrator Moody said any changes would come back before the Council. As they do work through the process, thoughts or items not necessarily contemplated at first may result in additional steps or services.

CMBR Faidley noted the new increased fee proposal since it was first put together for the review of "Roeling Through the Years." She also said that she feels like their greatest sin was not having the right people in the room when addressing the different communities, and would like Ms. Jacobson to address her process with the tribes. Following her presentation to the Historical Committee, she wanted to ask what she has learned and what her plan is for engaging the tribes as it is important to include other minorities in relation to their history.

CMBR Madigan said the scope of "Roeling Through the Years" has changed from when it started, beginning with the Roe family and why their city is named after them. When they got into their history, they found out other things. He said he takes offense that they sinned, but more that they stumbled and got ahead of themselves. He said the Historical Committee has always had the best intentions and that City Administrator Moody has worked hard to find a historian to be willing to undertake this project.

CMBR Castagna-Herrera knows that they want to do the right thing. She said that when they are dealing with the issue of race, people need to see them taking the time to work through all of the

steps. She said it will all be fine, but that they have to be thoughtful and sometimes they have to take a couple of extra steps.

CMBR Hill expressed concern that they were breaking protocol by delaying the recommendation for further examination. City Administrator Moody said it is not the Governing Body's usual practice and normally recommendations are accepted, but it is within the Governing Body's purview to request a presentation and further inquiry.

CMBR Castagna-Herrera asked if the fee includes people that would be paid for their interviews. City Administrator Moody said the price covers the cost of collecting the stories.

CMBR Rebne said he is encouraged by the conversation and the hiring of Ms. Jacobson and would support her and the project she is taking on. He said this has been on the mind of the Historical Committee for a long time and a lot of hard work has gone into this, so he wants to make sure they include all peoples. He added that he has a little lack of trust in the process, and it is difficult to support a story that does not make them feel good. He does want to believe that the Historical Committee is ready to move forward with a different vision if that is what this historian uncovers.

CMBR Madigan noted that all signs will be approved by the Council and the committee has fully discussed they want to encompass all these things and looking for changes that need to be made. As an aside, he said that Indigenous people do not feel like tribes but refer themselves as nations or just Indigenous people. He added that they are learning every day how to address these things.

Mayor Poppe said he is not concerned with Ms. Jacobson's work but the work product itself.

CMBR Rebne said it is more about what they do with the information they get.

CMBR Raglow said the Kansas City Indian Center is open and receptive to information and working with the Historical Committee on what is considered offensive and will work with them on that. Ms. Jacobson will put this in a report for the Historical Committee who will provide it to the Council. She added that nothing happens without Council review and approval.

CMBR Castagna-Herrera said she understands distrust and that it is probably where this feeling is coming from in not knowing what's is coming up.

Mayor Poppe added that he understands that they need these different discussions.

CMBR Faidley said she has spoken with Native Americans living in Roeland Park and did not know that "tribe" or "tribal" was offensive. She said that she has gotten her education from talking to them and learning how they look at things. She said they need to ask the question of if they are involving the right people and doing the right thing.

CMBR Madigan said if too many people from the Council are on the ad hoc committee, then the Council would take it over. He said that every one of them is involved. He also asked if they would send in their questions for Ms. Jacobson in advance so she can be prepared or whether it would be open questioning.

CMBR Hill recommended sending questions in ahead of time.

MOTION: CMBR DICKENS MOVED AND CMBR FAIDLEY SECONDED TO AMEND THE MOTION THAT MS. JACOBSON WOULD BE PRESENT AT THE NEXT COUNCIL MEETING SHE IS AVAILABLE. (NO VOTE WAS TAKEN.)

City Attorney Mauer clarified that Ms. Jacobson would be hired and she would attend their next meeting, but that her hiring was not contingent on her attendance at the next meeting.

City Administrator Moody said to email questions to him and he will forward them to Ms. Jacobson.

MOTION: CMBR MADIGAN MOVED AND CMBR HILL SECONDED TO ENGAGE ANNA JACOBSON FOR HISTORIAN SERVICES IN SUPPORT OF THE HISTORICAL MARKERS AND ROELING THROUGH THE YEARS HISTORY BOOK OBJECTIVES. (MOTION WITHDRAWN.)

CMBR Faidley said she had concerns that had to do with getting questions answered prior to approving her hiring. She said she can't support the motion without getting her questions answered first.

MOTION: CMBR MADIGAN MOVED AND CMBR RAGLOW SECONDED TO ENGAGE ANNA JACOBSON FOR HISTORIAN SERVICES IN SUPPORT OF THE HISTORICAL MARKERS AND ROELING THROUGH THE YEARS HISTORY BOOK OBJECTIVES, WITH A REQUEST FOR MS. JACOBSON TO APPEAR BEFORE THE GOVERNING BODY AT THE NEXT COUNCIL MEETING. (MOTION CARRIED 7-1 WITH CMBR FAIDLEY VOTING NO.)

VIII. Ordinances and Resolutions

There were no ordinances or resolutions presented.

IX. Reports of City Officials

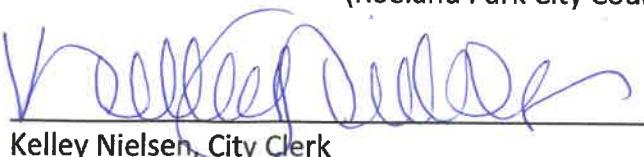
A. 1st Quarter 2023 Financial Report

City Administrator Moody said financial revenues have been positive with an increase in property and sales tax revenues. He said that inflation has been a substantial contributor largely due to sales taxes. Franchise fees are on budget, but court fines remain a little behind projections. Mr. Moody also reviewed the expenses and other revenues that are detailed in the report. He also noted that their investments are at \$9.6 million and the yield to maturity is up substantially over 4 percent due to interest rates rising. Detailed figures are in the agenda packet.

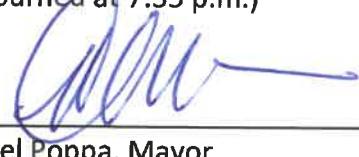
Adjourn:

MOTION: CMBR MADIGAN MOVED AND CMBR CASTAGNA-HERRERA SECONDED TO ADJOURN. (MOTION CARRIED 8-0.)

(Roeland Park City Council Meeting Adjourned at 7:35 p.m.)



Kelley Nielsen, City Clerk



Michael Poppa, Mayor